

Andrew Fidler

My family and I moved to Garrett Park from North Carolina in 2018. We have felt quite welcomed and integrated into Garrett Park already. I would appreciate the opportunity to give back to the community which has already given us so much by serving on the Town Council.

I have served on the Town's Arboretum Committee since shortly after moving here. On that committee, and participating in a number of other community events, I have witnessed the passion our neighbors have to enrich our community, and the dedication and selflessness with which they apply their passion. Having lived in a few different places in the recent past, I know that type of civic-minded attitude and activity makes this a very special place.

My wife and I work primarily from home. We have a son, Elijah (6), who was in Kindergarten at GPES back when going to school was a thing. We have a daughter, Goldie (3), who had been in pre-school in Kensington. We will likely have another daughter by press time (due to arrive April 23rd). We like to spend our free time outside, walking and biking around town, and going to playgrounds or the pool. We work here, we play here, and we're raising our kids here. So, I'm deeply invested in helping keep Garrett Park the special place it is in whatever way I can, now and for future generations.

A little more about me, as I realize I am a relative newcomer. I was born and raised in Tennessee. I am the middle brother of two strong-willed sisters, so I know how to listen even if I don't feel like it. I come from a long line of accountants, so I like quantifiable facts and am skeptical of forecasts. In my spare time in a pre-covid-19 world I enjoyed coaching youth baseball, so I appreciate the challenge of finding opportunities for learning amid rampant chaos. I work for the Food and Drug Administration as a Veterinary Medical Officer, evaluating the safety and effectiveness of stem cell therapies and gene-editing in animals. These are fields rife with fast-developing scientific innovation, and, of course, somewhat slower-developing government regulation. I've been lucky enough to help develop, implement, and communicate some of the flexible, risk-based regulatory approaches applied to these new veterinary medical technologies.

I have no particular political or leadership aspirations, no pet projects or personal legislative agenda, and relatively few strongly held convictions. I am interested in serving the community and contributing to keep Garrett Park wonderful. I would aim to do that by striving to faithfully represent the best interests of our neighbors and our neighborhood. I would hope to be a strong advocate for pedestrians, families, recreation, and the environment.

I have an understanding and appreciation of open-mindedness, objectivity, critical thinking, and evidence-based decision making. I think I can bring those qualities to the table for the benefit of the Council's work. I greatly appreciate your consideration, and thanks for reading.